



Guide to Support Fees and Costs

Parents pay fees and other costs to help pay for the services they receive.

Fees Charged to Either Parent or Shared by Both Parents

- \$30 Support Order Change Fee
 - Not all courts charge this filing fee.
 - This fee is charged to the parent requesting the order change.
 - No fee is charged to parents and guardians getting cash benefits from the W-2, SSI Caretaker Supplement, and the Kinship Care programs.
 - No fee is charged if both parents sign a legal agreement (stipulation) to change the order.
- \$25 Application Fee
 - This is a one-time fee charged to the parent who applies (or reapplies) for services.
 - No fee is charged to a parent or guardian in the W-2, federally financed foster care, Kinship Care, Medicaid, and SSI Caretaker Supplement programs. W-2 includes child care help.
 - In February 2008, families in the Medicaid program will be enrolled in the new BadgerCare Plus program. Many families in the BadgerCare Plus program will not have to pay the application fee.
 - The fee might be waived if the parent cannot afford the fee.
- Interstate Fee
 - Other states might charge a fee for enforcing a case in their state.
 - These fees vary.
 - The other states set these fees and may charge either parent.
- Genetic Testing Costs
 - Child support agencies offer genetic testing at a reduced cost. The cost of testing varies. The maximum fee is \$60 for each person tested when done at a child support agency. (Tests are done on the man, the mother, and the child)
 - No fee is charged to a man when the tests show he is not the father.

Fees paid by the Parent Receiving Support

- \$25 Fee for Collection/Enforcement Services
 - This new fee starts January 1, 2008. The fee is shared by the federal and state governments. It is used to pay program costs.
 - The fee is charged to parents receiving full case management services, as well as families receiving only financial services. **No fee is charged if** the parent now gets or had received cash benefits from the W-2, SSI Caretaker Supplement, or AFDC programs.
 - The fee is charged each year to parents receiving \$500 or more in support for the year. Support includes child support, alimony, family support, and past-due support.
 - The fee will be taken out of the support payment before the payment is sent to the parent.
 - This fee cannot be waived.
- Tax Intercept Fee
 - The fee is 10% of any collection of \$10 or more.
 - The fee will not be more than \$25.
 - The fee is taken out of the payment from the intercepted refund before it is sent.
 - No fee is charged on any portion of the intercepted refund used to pay support owed to the state.
 - No fee is charged if no refund is intercepted, or if the intercepted refund is recalled.
 - This fee cannot be waived.

Fees Paid by the Parent Paying Support

- \$3 Income Withholding Fee
 - Employers may charge a fee for withholding support from their employee's wages.
 - The fee should be the actual cost of withholding, up to \$3.
 - Employers may charge a fee for each withholding.
- \$65 Receipt and Disbursement Fee (R&D fee for processing payments)
 - The fee is charged each year for each court case.
 - The fee increased to \$65 on January 1, 2008.
 - The fee helps pay the cost of processing payments and maintaining payment records.
 - Paying parents receive a R&D fee notice and fee payment coupon each January.
 - If not paid in full, the fee might be collected by income withholding.
 - Parents may appeal their R&D fee. However, the only issue that can be raised at the hearing is mistake of fact (whether or not the amount of R&D fees owed is correct). The request for a hearing must be within 10 days of the "Notice to Withhold" mailing. It is done by filing a motion with the court where the order is entered. The requested hearing must be held within 10 working days after the motion is filed.

More Information

For information about **paying birth costs**, please see Child Support, Medicaid/BadgerCare Plus, and Repaying Birth Costs. These Child Support Guides are available free from your child support agency, and are online at **childsupport.wisconsin.gov**. Child support agencies are listed in your phone book under "county government" or tribal name, and online at **childsupport.wisconsin.gov**. Most public libraries have free Internet access.

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